

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1911.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month \$3.00
DAILY, Per Year \$36.00
SUNDAY, Per Year \$12.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year \$48.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month \$4.00

Postage to foreign countries added.
All checks, money orders, &c., to be made payable to THE SUN.

Published daily, including Sunday, by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President of the Association, Edward P. Mitchell, 170 Nassau street, Treasurer of the Association, M. F. Laffan, 170 Nassau street, Secretary of the Association, D. W. Quinn, 170 Nassau street.

London office, 11, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4, London, E.C. 4, England. The daily and Sunday Sun are on sale in London at the 3, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4, London, E.C. 4, England. The daily and Sunday Sun are on sale in London at the 3, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4, London, E.C. 4, England.

Paris office, 8, Rue de la Michodière, off Rue du Quatre Septembre, near Place de l'Opéra. The daily and Sunday Sun are on sale at 12, Boulevard des Capucines, corner Place de l'Opéra, and 12, Boulevard des Capucines, corner Place de l'Opéra, and 12, Boulevard des Capucines, corner Place de l'Opéra.

If our friends who care for our manuscript for publication will send selected articles returning them, must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Direct Tax.

The return to a direct tax, the proposal now declared to meet with the approval of the Governor, is the only conceivable solution for the present condition of the State treasury. In addition, it is the only possible way of bringing home to the people of the State the final meaning to them of the recent expansion of State debt.

The present plan to levy a direct tax of half a mill will raise about \$5,000,000. The charges for canal and highway sinking funds for the year beginning October 1 will be \$4,400,000, \$6,210,000 for the next year, \$10,570,000 for the two years. Thus if the direct tax rate be maintained next year at half a mill the proceeds in the two years will approximately meet the debt charges for the same period.

In the following years the rate will have to be doubled. The debt charges will be \$7,330,000 in 1913 and \$8,450,000 in 1914. In addition it is now proposed to increase the capital of the debt by approximately \$20,000,000 for canal terminals. It is clear, then, that in two years more the annual charge of the State debt will be some \$10,000,000, and that this sum will hereafter have to be raised by direct tax.

During the last four years the revenue of the State has about sufficed to meet the ordinary expenses of administration, as the following table shows:

Official estimate.

While the revenue of the State in the four years has increased but \$2,000,000, the expenditure has grown by nearly \$12,000,000, and only a large surplus in 1908 has kept the two columns even. It is, then, idle to imagine that the indirect taxation can hereafter do more than meet the routine expenses of the general fund. It is equally futile to suppose that large advances in indirect taxation are possible. Governor HUGHES attempted such an experiment in the inheritance tax last year and it cost the State \$1,500,000 in revenue.

Henceforth the best that the taxpayers of the State can hope for is such an administration of State finance as will keep the ordinary expenses within the ordinary revenue. Both are bound to grow gradually, and the several tax reform measures proposed by the Governor this year will doubtless reestablish the balance between expense and revenue in 1912.

The immediate occasion of the return to a direct tax is the extravagance of the last four years of Republican rule, which were marked by an increase in the cost of State administration six times as great as the increase in revenue. But if the tax is a Republican inheritance, it is no less a good thing for the State to establish a direct and unmistakable relation between the taxpayer and the State debt. Such a relation once established, the check upon the expansion of the debt will be automatic.

Every consideration that can appeal to wise statesmanship and party leadership demands a return to the direct tax.

A Column for the Best People.

In his appeal to the Hon. JONAS DIX to veto the election bill which bears the name of a former Citizens Union district leader the Hon. AARON J. LEVY, a representative of the Union, on Wednesday advanced the following interesting and impressive argument:

(The bill) would strike a severe blow at bona fide independent organizations like the Citizens Union. Such organizations desire a place upon the ballot not for the purpose of selling out to one of the large parties but for the purpose of informing the voters at large of their position in regard to candidates.

The Citizens Union, as its representative later asserted, rarely makes nominations; it has no considerable number of members to whom it might refer such questions. What it does have is a city committee composed of a small band of unofficial citizens, responsible to no body possessed of primary election machinery to choose such a committee.

The function of this small committee is to gather about a table and sit in solemn judgment upon the official records and personal attainments of the various candidates for office of the several parties and then place upon the ballot its own column containing the names of the relatively few aspirants for office who, tried by the acid test of Citizens Union respectability, satisfy the ideal of citizenship existent in a party which

no longer finds it worth while to name candidates of its own.

A more preposterous argument and a better justification for the sections of the Levy bill thus attacked by the Citizens Union could not be imagined. Why the official ballot should be encumbered and the cost and work of printing and handling multiplied simply to give an irresponsible and unofficial committee of "best citizens" an opportunity to express in this way a personal opinion, frequently founded merely upon class prejudice, is hard to see.

If the Citizens Union desires to indicate its endorsement of candidates named by regular parties the Levy bill permits its emblem to be placed after the names of such candidates. This eliminates a column on the ballot without depriving an independent of a single right. But to demand for a hundred or two citizens, however eminent, the right to a separate column on the ballot because of their civic superiority and inherent and surpassing righteousness, is this not a little too much?

Quick Action Government in a City of Bournemouth.

The city of Eugene, Oregon, site of the University of Oregon and partly surrounded by an amphitheatre of low mountains (see gazetteer), is determined to have a commission government charter worthy of those educational and scenic privileges. While its proposed charter looks almost reactionary in requiring the signature of 15 per cent. of the legal voters to initiate the initiative, the referendum can be set to work by twenty-five voters. A Eugene despatch to the Portland Oregonian gives the auspicious news:

"Provision whereby twenty-five voters may demand an immediate referendum election on any ordinance passed by the City Council is one of the novel features of the proposed commission government charter for Eugene on which the charter board put finishing touches last night. According to the proposed charter the State law in regard to referendum shall apply in all cases, and this would require sixty to eighty names to call a referendum, but the provision is added which will prevent the Council shelving a referendum until a convenient season for an election, perhaps for as much as a year.

"In demanding an immediate election the petitioners must deposit with the city sufficient money to pay the cost of the special election, and when a referendum petition, accompanied by the further petition of twenty-five legal voters and the required deposit, is filed with the City Recorder the Council must call the special election to be held within thirty days after the next regular meeting. As regular meetings under the commission plan would be held each Monday, and ten days notice of special election is required, quick action can be obtained on any matter to which the citizens object."

"Quick action" seems to be a term more logical and more exactly descriptive than "direct action." Quick action government, put in motion and controlled by a minority, technically called "the people"; that is the old man's vision and the young man's dream in this grand and wondrous time.

On the Wrong Track.

Just after the annual comedy of beating woman suffrage at Albany by a politely slender margin may the friends of that "reform" be reminded that it is no reform and that they are utterly on the wrong track? To demand representation and a share in representative government when that system is damned by all uplifting souls is to be antiquated and out of style, errors into which women of sense are careful not to fall.

If government by commission, oligarchy, is the hope and salvation of cities it must be the hope and salvation of States, and most imperiously and inevitably of a State like New York, full of the inequities called cities. If the withdrawal from the people of the power of electing any officers save a select body of notables or nonables be a boon, the withdrawal from the great body of citizens of even that power must be a boon also. Select commission, select suffrage.

Instead of giving the right of suffrage to women it should be taken away from men, from most men, and restricted to the earnest and exalted remnant. Government by commission, suffrage by commission. Women, no doubt, should be eligible to both; a few women as a few men, all responsible to some of those inspired leaders, the Pied Pipers whom it is now the blessed privilege of Americans to follow with rapturous ears.

Pavements.

Possibly there are a few citizens who remember a time when the pavements of this town were in reasonably good condition. It is a matter of slight consequence whether the blame for the pavement conditions rests upon the last Tammany or the present City Club Borough President.

What does concern the much enduring people of New York city is that the streets should be repaired with promptness and efficiency. The long continued efforts of the Borough President to obtain the perfect subway system are commendable enough, but it is about time that part of his attention should be withdrawn from subterranean to surface subjects and part of his energy devoted to serving the interests of those who have to ride in vehicles instead of providing for those who would ride in trains.

The Roddenberry Curiousities.

The Hon. SEABORN ANDERSON RODDENBERRY of Georgia is a new member of the House of Representatives. He has just introduced two bills designed to enlist the Federal Government in the enforcement of State or township prohibition of the sale of liquor.

One of the Roddenberry measures makes it a criminal offence, punishable by fine and imprisonment or both, for any person to deposit in the United States mails any written or printed advertisement offering for sale spirituous or intoxicating liquor in "communities, counties, States or Territories where by State or local law the sale of such liquors is prohibited." It declares such matter unlawful when addressed to persons in such localities. It makes the offence indictable and punishable either at the place of mailing or at the place

where such matter is received or delivered.

For example, as we understand the bill, the proprietor of a newspaper or magazine in New York containing an advertisement of one of the Milwaukee beers or of one of the wines of Champagne could be indicted under Federal law either in New York or Maine and convicted and imprisoned in either State for mailing a copy of his newspaper or magazine to a subscriber in Bangor.

The second of Mr. RODDENBERRY'S legislative enterprises provides that the Federal internal revenue tax shall not be collected in the case of any wholesale or retail dealer in spirituous or malt liquors doing business in any community where there is prohibition under State or local laws, at the same time making it the duty of the United States Government to prosecute and punish such dealer for failure to pay the special or so-called license tax.

How simple and masterly!

The Last of the Bayreuth Conductors.

The death of FELIX MOTT removed the last of the conductors of the music of RICHARD WAGNER who had come into personal contact with the composer. It is true that HANS RICHTER still lives and will be one of the conductors at the Bayreuth festival performances this summer, but ANTON SEIDL, HERMAN LEVY and FELIX MOTT, who worked with the master during the early years of Bayreuth, are gone. ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK, also an assistant to WAGNER then, had too brief a career as a conductor to have any influence in that capacity.

The Bayreuth tradition as to the interpretation of the Wagner music dramas had a firm supporter in MOTT, although he did not carry that modern development so far as MICHAEL BALLING, SIEGFRIED WAGNER and other members of the Wagner family to whom any word of the chateleine of Wahnfried is law. SEIDL'S dramatic temperament prevented him from adopting the present Bayreuth method of drawing out every phrase of the music, and this rule of Mme. COSIMA'S was indeed brought to its present authority long after he had departed from Bayreuth.

HANS RICHTER first conducted at Bayreuth before the present views as to the proper interpretation of WAGNER'S music had been promulgated by the widow of the composer. To RICHTER'S intimacy with the family at Wahnfried as well as his advanced years—he is now sixty-eight—his ready acquiescence in the views of Bayreuth to-day is attributed.

GUSTAV MAHLER was not identified with Bayreuth, nor was KARL MUCK, notably allied with its artistic interests, although he is to be one of the conductors this year. MAHLER never found it necessary to accept the Bayreuth teaching of the subject of tempi. SIEGFRIED WAGNER and the other Bayreuth conductors are not sufficiently important to make it seem probable that they will ever give New York the opportunity to hear their ideas on interpretation. Our own ARTURO TOSCANINI shows some signs of sympathy with the new Bayreuth spirit, but not enough to be included in the little group that now rules the destinies of the Festspielhaus. So FELIX MOTT was the last great representative of the modern views as to conducting the works of RICHARD WAGNER. Although he came into association with RICHARD WAGNER, it was not his theories but those of the present rulers of the Bavarian musical town that he represented with perhaps greater distinction than any other conductor.

The Legislature should think long before laying a ruthless hand on the Albany Bureaucracy. To suppress it is to suppress a great demand for food and drink and to amputate an honor from an honorary list of which the once notorious Harvard "Med. Fac." did but faintly dream when it admitted the Czar of Russia to share in its glories and got due imperial acknowledgment and thanks in return.

The Hon. WOODROW WILSON seems to regard the Governorship of New Jersey as a travelling scholarship.

From some portion of the West with the end of the season for years there has come the report of the "last big roundup of cattle." The cowboy with his lariat, branding iron and "chuck wagon" has been gradually pushed out of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas until almost his only remaining corral was the ranges of Montana. But the last Government crop report shows such a remarkable change in that State that it seems his days there are almost ended.

The acreage of all cereals has increased in ten years 150 per cent., the wheat fields alone expanding 180 per cent. But this is not such an indication of the change as the difference between the sixteen acres of fax in 1890 and the 37,617 in 1900, for it is customary in Montana to raise fax on sod, and the increase in acreage furnishes a measure of the extent to which cattle and sheep ranges are being converted into farms. The days of the big roundup in Judith Basin, in Fergus county, and even along the lower Judith and the breaks of the Missouri are practically past. The stockmen are moving across into Dawson county, that extends eastward from Fergus to the Dakota line, but even there it may not be many years before they will see their last roundup.

The Feud Between Squirrel and Bird.

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In connection with Dr. John A. Wyeth's letter to-day's SUN it is interesting to note that squirrels are said to be inimical to birds, witness the enclosed note by Edmund T. Dabney in the *Selborne Magazine* for October, 1909.

The yew tree in Miss Brad's garden bears any single tree that I have known in the number and variety of birds that nest in it. She deplores the fact that a squirrel has been seen in its winter quarters there. For the birds, however, it was a merciful deliverance. Had the squirrel been there the next spring it would have rifled almost every nest, sucked the eggs and devoured the young. The coe it is to birds and for advising they should be kept in check.

A squirrel nature is as therein described and would gladly favor the removal of the yew tree from the garden. It is a pity that the greater importance of birds as park ornaments is not more generally recognized. The yew tree is a pest to the birds and a nuisance to the insects which injure trees and plants.

Water Works.

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: It is a pity that our shortage of water prevents the proper facilities for the quenching of thirst in man and beast.

VARDAMAN'S 160 ON POWER CAMPAIGN.

MERIDIAN, Miss., July 12.—It is hard sledding for the Hon. Leroy Percy these fervent times. It hasn't been as hot in Mississippi during the last few weeks as in Detroit or Chicago or Boston, but it has been hot enough, hotter than most people like, and the weather is gradually warming up to the caloric level of the campaign. It is another tribute to the various virtues of the "popular election of Senators" that in addition to the assessment on candidates to meet election expenses those same candidates have to visit every nook and corner of the State and from Tupelo to Meridian and from Greenville to Aberdeen address audiences assembled from the different neighborhoods or assume the responsibility of having neglected so many free and independent sovereigns. It comes high, and the individual will begin to realize that the State excludes the poor man absolutely from the competition.

For the moment, however, the common people are having their fling at no particular cost to themselves. So the three candidates in this contest, Percy, Vardaman and Alexander, are zigzagging all over the State by rail and river, by stage line or by mule power, across the hotlands of Tishomingo county or through the forests and beneath the climbing jasmynes of Adams, jumping from the pot liquor of the Hatchie vicinity to the fried chicken, beaten biscuits and cymblins of Columbus and Holly Springs, with pocketbooks a leak and no rest for the ambitious. In good time the poor man will come to regret the easygoing days when he could pack his bag, scrape up money enough to pay carfare to the capital and ruffle it on easy terms among the legislators. For the time being, while the fat lasts and the jargon of the Progressive passes current, a Senatorship is within reach only of the prosperous, and the average man's part is to watch the procession and thank heaven for the opportunity. The three candidates in this case seem to have the price and common folk must stand aside; but as has been said, it looks like hard sledding for Percy, by long odds the finest fellow Mississippi has sent to Washington since the days of Walthall and Lamar.

What will be the outcome? Who knows? It is practically impossible to find any one who thinks Alexander may be a winner, and in popular estimation at least the issue is between Vardaman and Percy. Only a few days ago the former was drawn through this town by eighty yoke of white oxen. With each yoke marched a guide dressed in white, and enthroned upon the vehicle sat Jim Vardaman, himself dyked out in purest duck, a spick and span emanation of the bandbox, spotless from throat to heel, with all the assembled myriads yelling discordant tribute to the spectacle. It is impossible for people in our part of the country to appraise the importance and effect of this theatrical, not to say melodramatic, pageant, but down here it was prodigious. It materialized the essence of Vardaman's campaign. It was an apotheosis of the color line. It revived the terrors of the carpet bag period and invested with vicarious consequence the spooks of a long buried past. But Vardaman knows how to play upon the passions and prejudices of the red necks and the hill bills, and he is doing it with a master hand. Even John Sharp Williams, with all the corporations, the penitentiary horde and the rest of the buttressed and embattled aristocracy at his back, has succumbed. A year ago, in beating Vardaman by a beggarly margin of votes, What Percy will accomplish against him, Percy who washes his face and hands every day and wears clean clothes habitually, heaven only knows.

Vardaman is not of the unshaven and unshorn. He is not ostentatiously slovenly for political purposes. On the contrary, he is as neat as a pin always. In these respects he is on a par with Percy, the difference between the two being that he preaches the lowest demagoguery in spotless raiment, while his opponent, in equally fastidious attire, preaches the same and safe and thoroughly conservative doctrine. There is little doubt in the minds of the substantial and responsible voters as to which will most becomingly represent the progress and prosperity of Mississippi in the United States Senate. The question is whether the respectability of the rabble will prevail in the approaching primaries, and even the most friendly observer is bound to admit that the rabble is mighty strong in the State.

There is no reason to suppose that the somewhat picturesque intrusion of Private John Allen into the campaign, as a partisan of Percy's and a rather too hectic accuser of Vardaman, will change anybody's mind. Allen is violent as well as humorous and seems to have distributed good and evil in about equal proportions so far as concerns his favorite. Neither does it appear that the encounter on the railway train at Starkville, in which State Senator Bilbo, a Vardaman supporter, was badly beaten by a pistol in the hands of one J. J. Henry, a former penitentiary official and now a railroad employee, will do more than intensify the already prevalent antagonism between Percy and Alexander, each opposing each other on practically the original lines. The side issues and incidental obfuscations, fruitful as they are of heat and animosity in Mississippi, have made no impression on the canvass.

All the indications are that Vardaman is running very strong, and if Alexander's votes do not constitute a subtraction from Percy's strength all present calculations are at fault.

CIGAR SMOKERS AND REFORM.

The Voice of One Who Has Smoked Thousands of Cigars Weekly.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: It is astonishing when a man who determines to effect a reform, either in their own manners or those of others, how quickly men of the type of "Nightmare" will give out the benefit of their dreams. The subject of the reform is the smoking habit, which he is not to segregate the smokers, but simply to force them to be decent and exercise a decent regard for the rights of others. That there is a necessity for such a society is apparent to any observing person who will visit in the suburbs or upon the railway trains or in fact who goes into almost any public place.

This country more than any other on the face of the earth possesses a liberal supply of hogs, and the hog is the most common and most disgusting and offensive animal in the country. The hog is the most common and most disgusting and offensive animal in the country. The hog is the most common and most disgusting and offensive animal in the country.

The eagerness with which many gentlemen of the mental makeup of "Nightmare" seek to evade the issue is apparent in the subway. I have seen any morning at the exit of any downtown station by noting the hundreds of burned matches on the steps. So little regard have they for the rights of others that they cannot wait to get to the street before lighting up the stink-bomb which they have hung on to for dear life; but as soon as they reach the bottom of the stairs they must hold up the procession while they strike a match, and then they cross the platform and enter the car, leaving the dead cigar while climbing the stairs, and they are lucky if they do not get poked in the eye by a lit cigar or cigarette.

I have analyzed thousands of good cigars, and in this sum I wish to express my unqualified contempt for any man so absolutely devoid of any discerning judgment regarding tobacco that he will light up a cigar after it has been discarded by the smoker. I am tempted to the punishment of the crime any man who will carry a stub into a train should be fined at least \$50 and confined for not less than two years at hard labor.

MOUNT VERNON, July 13. J. DAYTON.

Stop, Look and Listen!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: You render good service in the way of the request of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, in the publication of the "Stop, Look and Listen" article in to-day's SUN. As matter of fact a good many people who go about the country afoot and in vehicles, and in special in automobiles, concerning which the proper common sense at home when they travel, there would be fewer accidents to read about in the papers.

I believe it is a law of the State of Pennsylvania, that when crossing any railroad at grade a person is obliged to "stop, look and listen," whether pedestrian or in a vehicle; and it would be an excellent law to enact in this State. To one who goes about Long Island, Westchester county, and the rest of the State, the fact, the necessity and wisdom of such provision are obvious.

Aside from the annoyance and expense entailed by such accidents the railroad companies deprive all who happen to be taken many a precious hour of their lives in the process of waiting for a train to pass, and in the case of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and all crossings guarded and the jangling clock and nerve rending steam whistle.

NEW YORK, July 13. JOHN J. CULLEN.

COST OF MEAT IN PARIS.

The enormous increase in the price of meat in Paris is causing great distress among the working classes. A few days ago a great meeting was held at a newspaper office to discuss the subject and several Municipal Councilors were present. A great deal of first hand information was published, and steps were taken toward systematic effort to bring about a reduction of prices.

It appears that the oppressive advance had been about a year. But, said M. Lefevre, president of the General Syndicate of French Butchers, it must not be imagined that it was a sudden phenomenon. It had really been impending since 1903. Since that year, with occasional interruptions, the price of meat had been steadily rising in France; it merely reached a climax in 1910. In July of that year the public felt the full weight of the increase; since November, notwithstanding the increase, the situation had become disastrous for the trade.

In the few intervening months the price of meat had risen to such an extent that the public was compelled to curtail its consumption of meat.

M. Lefevre gave some interesting statistics. In 1910, he said, there were sold in the Marche de la Villette, according to the official figures of the Department of the Seine, 358,512 beef cattle, 176,939 calves, 1,673,751 sheep. The average weight of these animals was 368 kilos (about 750 pounds) for cattle, 70 kilos for calves and 10 kilos for sheep. This gives a total weight of 123,183,392 kilos, or something more than double that number of pounds, of beef marketed, 12,555,730 kilos of veal and 81,801,286 kilos of mutton.

Had this meat been sold in 1902 at prices then current it would have realized the following sums: Beef, 1 franc 12 centimes; the kilo on the average, 157,942,900 francs; veal, at 1 franc 58 centimes, 19,901,253 francs; mutton, at 1 franc 51 centimes, 205,844,188 francs. Last year the prices actually realized were for the beef, at an average of 1 franc 61 centimes, 198,298,000 francs; for the veal, at about 2 francs 27 centimes, 27,826,983 francs; for the mutton, at 2 francs 22 centimes, 70,588,817.

The total realized in 1902 by the sales would have been 205,864,188 francs; last year it was 296,728,441 francs, an increase of 90,864,253 francs, or about 45 per cent. That the people of Paris had to pay out of their fund for living expenses.

The causes of the increase, said M. Lefevre, were both social and commercial. Change in the standards of living increased the demand for meat; but more questionably the import duty was the main cause, if indeed the correct method of protection, that is to say exclusion, were not most to blame, the methods embodied in the importation laws under the guise of sanitary precautions applying to meat.

There were more than a hundred Senators and Deputies present at this meeting, many of whom made speeches. Finally Municipal Councillor Girou of Paris made a statement of the situation. He said that upon an order of the day or resolution was adopted embodying the following demands: 1. That the Debussy law raising the tariff on meat and food animals be repealed and the customs duties of the law of 1892 repealed. 2. That the prohibition on imported slaughtered animals referring to adhesions of the thoracic organs embodied in the laws of 1884 and 1892 be abolished. 3. That provisions be adopted to suppress hucksters' shops and all fraudulent and illicit practices. 4. That measures be taken to protect the consumer of food animals from the colonies and that they be admitted free of duty.

The subject of the dearness of meat has been taken up by the Parliament. The Tariff Commission of the Chamber has arranged to discuss the subject of the meat syndicate. In the Senate a demand has been made on the Minister of Agriculture for a report. Deputy Georges Berry, representing the Department of the Seine, has also given notice of an interpellation on the subject of meat, taxes and boulevards.

It looks as if the matter would soon tower above all other domestic topics if a remedy is not speedily found. It is at least a political issue which appeals to every Frenchman, high or low, rich or poor. It touches all alike in two particularly sensitive spots—the stomach and the pocket. Fiscal reform may lag and proportional representation may be indefinitely postponed, but it is safe to say the high cost of meat will be kept in the public eye with great distinctness, and legislators who aspire to keep their seats and salaries will hustle until a remedy is found.

Referendum Foiled.

From the Denver Republican.

The case of the telephone ordinance recently enacted by the city of Denver, an illustration of the folly of the referendum.

The ordinance in question is practically nothing more than an acceptance by the city of the offer made by the telephone company to pay to the city treasury 2 per cent. of the gross earnings to be expended on streets, parks and boulevards. It leaves all matters at issue between the company and the city respecting the rights or claims of the former and the powers of the latter exactly as they are. Nothing is granted to the telephone company. No restriction is placed on the earnings of the city. It is a case of benefits to be received by the city and of nothing granted to the telephone company.

To submit this to the referendum is to ask the people to vote on whether the city treasury shall or shall not be enriched by an annual payment by the telephone company of something like \$25,000.

If the matter had been understood the signers of the referendum petition would have treated with contempt the suggestion that they should consider the ordinance as a document. They would have answered that since the city had an opportunity to get \$25,000 a year without giving anything in return it should certainly take advantage of it. But they did not know, they did not understand. They were misled by the imperiousness of the men who presented the ordinance and without knowing anything about the matter or trying to find out they signed the petitions and thus suspended the ordinance until the city election to be held next May.

It deprives the city of the revenue it would obtain if the ordinance were in effect. The referendum petitioners have done one thing, if they have done nothing else. They have knocked the city out of the \$25,000 which would form the first year's contribution.

It is an instructive illustration of the effect of the referendum which the would-be political reformers have fastened upon the city.

A SUFFRAGIST'S HUSBAND.

Tells Jeopardy of His Conversion to the Cause and of His Happy Home.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I am that most pitiful inspiring object to some recent correspondents who sign feminine names, the husband of an enthusiastic and active suffragist. That I find the home that she makes what it is the most charming place that I have known may be to the credit of her, but I should like to say a few words as to how and why I have been converted to the cause of woman suffrage. And let me say at the outset that if any one, male or female, modernly defects and deplores the existence of an unwomanly woman than I, his or her powers of detesting and deploring must be well developed. I dislike the aggressive, one ideated, shrill voiced woman who imputes evil motives or low intelligence to all who disagree with her far more than I do with the same faults, for my standards of womanliness have been fixed by grandmother, mother, sister, aunts and wife.

And I admit that the women with these faults do not naturally gravitate into my movement, but I have known too many to be an absolutely untenable and even ridiculous notion. In New York city alone there are thousands of gracious, thoroughbred, charming and much loved women who are enlisted heart and soul in what they rightly call a movement for the uplift and broadening of our civilization quite as much as for increasing a woman's power to make her life, her home and her children's future what she longs to have them.

All politics are but municipal, State and national housekeeping. Trite as this is, it is extremely true. The suffragist is one that the opponents of woman suffrage seem utterly unable to grasp or to answer. It was the conception of this fact that first made me see the rightness of the cry of "Votes for Women." Then came an appreciation of the widening of the scope of woman's sublimity, which the "anties" are the first and loudest to hail and acclaim, that would follow. Then the increased fairness of chance for the vast and swiftly increasing host of woman workers, not that any miracles would follow or any woman's sublimity be enhanced, but the new and fresh interest brought into the lives of the more intelligent women; for one knows how little interest a man can maintain in the politics of a State where he has no vote. And then the absolutely homey man character of the objection that "would take the woman from her home!"

One moment. Make a test. Try to remain perfectly grainless for five minutes and then ask yourself how much the right to vote takes a man from his home unless he is an utterly unprincipled and unscrupulous officeholder. Will always be far rarer than women singers, actresses, lecturers, who are indeed taken from their homes, and as one to one thousand of the women workers whose homes never see them during the working hours of the weekday.

Let us place on the table the so-called "right" to vote. I do not admit it. The interests of the community alone should determine who should vote. But I firmly believe that not only the interests of the community but the interests of the woman, her children and her husband, of her husband demand that we should not give her but avail ourselves of her vote.

NEW YORK, July 13. H. R. G.

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From the Denver Republican.

The case of the telephone ordinance recently enacted by the city of Denver, an illustration of the folly of the referendum.

The ordinance in question is practically nothing more than an acceptance by the city of the offer made by the telephone company to pay to the city treasury 2 per cent. of the gross earnings to be expended on streets, parks and boulevards. It leaves all matters at issue between the company and the city respecting the rights or claims of the former and the powers of the latter exactly as they are. Nothing is granted to the telephone company. No restriction is placed on the earnings of the city. It is a case of benefits to be received by the city and of nothing granted to the telephone company.

To submit this to the referendum is to ask the people to vote on whether the city treasury shall or shall not be enriched by an annual payment by the telephone company of something like \$25,000.

If the matter had been understood the signers of